

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0048]-[0049] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

**[0048]** Initially, the sink 2-1 source 1 transmits its own certificate to the source 1sink 2-1. Specifically, the control section 2415 of the sink 2-1 source 1 reads a certificate from the storage section 2516, and transmits it as a communication command to the source 1 sink 2-1 via the communication I/F 2314 (① in Fig. 5).

**[0049]** When the source 1 sink 2-1 receives this communication command, the source 1 sink 2 determines whether or not the data is valid. Specifically, the control section 1524 of the source 1 sink 2-1 checks whether or not the data in the certificate received via the communication I/F 1223 corresponds to the electronic signature of the key management organization attached thereto by using the public key of the key management organization stored in the storage section 1625. That is, the control section 1524 determines the validity of the received data by performing a DSA (Digital Signature Algorithm) verification computation process for public key encryption. If the determination result shows that the received data is valid, the authentication process continues. Otherwise, the authentication process is terminated.